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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHEG #1852/01 2671513
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
P 241513Z SEP 09
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3706
INFO RUCNRCC/REFUGEE COORDINATOR COLLECTIVE
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 1955
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 1208
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0453

S E C R E T CAIRO 001852

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ELA, PRM FOR LANGE, PRM FOR GILMORE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/24/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREF](#) [PTER](#) [PBTS](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#) [EG](#)

SUBJECT: REFUGEES CAUGHT IN EGYPT-ISRAEL BORDER CROSSFIRE

REF: A. CAIRO 1458 B. 08 CAIRO 2384 C. CAIRO 1377 D. JERUSALEM 1264 E. CAIRO 36 Classified By: Minister Counselor for Economic and Political Affairs
1.(C) Key Points: -- Egypt's border with Israel is under pressure from Bedouin traffickers moving illegal goods, drugs, arms, and people, including
2.(C) Comment: Per the Camp David Accords, military border guards are not allowed on the Israel border. Border guards are allowed on the Gaza border
3.(S) Egypt's border with Israel serves as a crossing point for African migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees searching for a better life in Israel
4.(C) Former MFA Refugee Office Coordinator Tarek El Maaty claimed that the GoE in 2008 instituted a "shoot at the legs" policy against those trying to enter
5.(SBU) Since late April, the number of border incidents appears to have increased. According to local press reports there have been at least eight
5.(C) Relations between the Sinai Bedouin and the Government of Egypt (GoE) are historically tense. The Bedouin in central Sinai have few economic
6.(C) UNHCR statistics show Egypt is home to approximately 35,000 registered refugees from sub-Saharan Africa, but Post is aware that many more